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# Board Cover Memorandum

**To** Board of Education

**From** Dexter Moore, Jr., Chief of Staff

**Meeting Date** January 22, 2025

**Subject** Legislative Advocacy Presentation

**Ask of the Board** This presentation will focus on the following objectives and provide an opportunity to gather Board input on legislative priorities and areas of interest. These contributions will play a critical role in shaping the 2025 legislative platform, ensuring alignment with the district's strategic goals and the needs of the community. The input and questions from the Board will help refine and strengthen our advocacy efforts for the upcoming legislative cycle.

1. **Updates:** An overview of key outcomes from the previous year's legislative cycle.
2. **Legislative Context:** A primer on the typical budget and legislative timeline to provide a clearer understanding of the process.
3. **Policy Analysis Guidance:** Strategies and tools for evaluating policy and advocacy efforts from a comprehensive, strategic perspective.

**Background** For the past several years, the Board of Education has adopted a legislative platform that guides the work of the District's legislative advocacy in Sacramento. In previous years, the OUSD legislative platform supported positions that were adopted in state law and/or acknowledged as State priorities in several areas, including career technical education, early childhood education, school facilities, charter schools, and others.

Reviewing the key outcomes of the previous year's legislative cycle is essential for building upon prior successes and identifying opportunities for improvement. This retrospective analysis provides the Board with a comprehensive understanding of which legislative efforts delivered meaningful benefits to the district

Moreover, a thorough understanding of the legislative and budget timelines is indispensable for effective advocacy and alignment with key decision-making

processes at the state and federal levels. Advocacy efforts that are not strategically aligned with these timelines risk being deprioritized or failing to gain necessary traction. By providing the Board with a detailed primer on the legislative and budgetary cycle, this focus ensures that advocacy initiatives are timed to maximize influence.

Finally, effective policy analysis and advocacy require a strategic, data-informed approach that ensures alignment with the district's objectives and the needs of the community. The development and application of comprehensive evaluation frameworks empower the Board to critically assess proposed policies and legislative initiatives, taking into account potential benefits, risks, and trade-offs. By prioritizing evidence-based strategies, this focus enhances the district's capacity to advocate for policies that deliver the greatest impact for students, families, and stakeholders. Furthermore, this guidance reinforces the importance of grounding legislative decisions in a thorough understanding of their long-term implications, strengthening the overall effectiveness of the district's advocacy efforts.

- Discussion** To ensure collective awareness and education from the current Board on the legislative landscape, OUSD's legislative lobbyists from School Services of California will present an overview of key outcomes from the previous year's legislative cycle, a primer on the typical budget and legislative timeline to provide a clearer understanding of the process and strategies and tools for evaluating policy and advocacy efforts from a comprehensive, strategic perspective.
- Fiscal Impact** There are no fiscal impacts for this discussion. However, there are a number of fiscal impacts that can accrue through adoption of the Legislative Platform. Some of the positions can lead to increased funds for the District. Other positions can help avoid costly new mandates.
- Attachment(s)**
- Legislative Platform PowerPoint